



Homeland
Security

Privacy Office, Mail Stop 0655

September 25, 2019

SENT VIA E-MAIL TO: 80678-50766688@requests.muckrock.com

Aestetix
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 80678
411A Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Re: **2019-HQFO-01255**

Dear Aestetix:

This acknowledges receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), dated September 20, 2019, and seeking a copy of all files on the Hackers On Planet Earth (HOPE) hacking conference, which has taken place in New York City since 1994. Your request was received in this office on September 20, 2019.

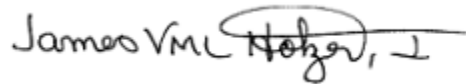
After careful review of your FOIA request, we determined that your request is too broad in scope or did not specifically identify the records which you are seeking. Records must be described in reasonably sufficient detail to enable government employees who are familiar with the subject area to locate records without placing an unreasonable burden upon the agency. For this reason, 6 C.F.R. Part 5 §5.3(b) of the DHS FOIA regulations require that you describe the records you are seeking with as much information as possible to ensure that our search can locate them with a reasonable amount of effort. Whenever possible, a request should include specific information about each record sought, such as the date, title or name, author, recipients, and subject matter of the records, if known, or the DHS component or office you believe created and/or controls the record. The FOIA does not require an agency to create new records, answer questions posed by requesters, or attempt to interpret a request that does not identify specific records. Additionally, the Department of Homeland Security was created January 24, 2003; therefore, no DHS records exist prior to that date. Records created prior to the establishment of DHS by any of the organizational components of DHS would be maintained by those components.

Please resubmit your request containing a reasonable description of the records you are seeking. This is not a denial of your request. Upon receipt of a perfected request, you will be advised as to the status of your request. If we do not hear from you within 30 days from the date of this letter, we will assume you are no longer interested in this FOIA request, and the case will be administratively closed.

Your request has been assigned reference number **2019-HQFO-01255**. Please refer to this identifier in any future correspondence. The status of your FOIA request is now available online and can be accessed at: <https://www.dhs.gov/foia-status>, by using this FOIA request number.

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss this matter, please feel free to contact this office at 1-866-431-0486 or at 202-343-1743.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James V. McHolzer, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

James Holzer
Deputy Chief FOIA Officer